

App. No. 09/785,861
Amendment Dated: February 16, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action dated December 3, 2004, claims 16 and 30 are objected to for being incomplete sentences. Claims 1, 2, and 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). Claims 10-21 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Claims 22, 23, and 25-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). On February 11, 2005, a teleconference was held between Joshua W. Korver and Examiner Chankong Dohm to discuss the rejections. The following amendments made to the claims results from that discussion.

I. Claim Objections

Claims 16 and 30 are object to because they are incomplete sentences. Claims 16 and 30 have been amended to overcome the objection without further limiting the scope of the claims. Applicant respectfully requests that the claim objections therefore be withdrawn.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

The rejection of claims 1, 2, and 4-7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Aravamudhan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,563,919) is maintained in the Office Action. As discussed in the teleconference meeting of February 11, 2005, claim 1 has been amended to further clarify the subject matter the Applicant regards as the invention.

Examining amended claim 1, the claim states that "wherein the messaging component translates a message to a first format by passing properties of a message to the storage component in a first format." That the claimed invention performs two translations is supported in the specification by the language, "The invention provides a means to receive a message over a communications medium, translate it into a first format for general use, and further translate it to a second format for data storage." (See Specification, page 2, lines 1-3) In contrast, Aravamudhan et al. discloses only a single conversion being performed (using one of two conversion options), so that mobility management is handled by a unified mobility manager (UMM). (See Aravamudhan et al. column 7, lines 14-45) Accordingly, Aravamudhan et al. only discloses performing a single conversion of the message data for mobility management, while

App. No. 09/785,861
Amendment Dated: February 16, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2004

the claimed invention performs two translations, for general use and for storage. It is also noted that the conversion of Aravamudhan et al. and the translations of the present invention are different in their purpose and in the data that is being converted (Aravamudhan et al. is concerned with mobility data, while the claimed invention is concerned with message fields and content). As a result, Aravamudhan et al. does not anticipate claim 1, and withdrawal of the rejection against claim 1 is respectfully solicited.

With regard to claims 2 and 4-7, claims 2 and 4-7 are dependent upon claim 1. Therefore, Aravamudhan et al. does not anticipate claims 2 and 4-7 for at least the reasons stated above with regard to claim 1.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

First, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of claims dependent on claim 1 are predicated on the above-stated 35 U.S.C. 102(e) rejection cited against claim 1. As stated above, claim 1 is clearly patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), and therefore, the Office Action's 35 U.S.C. 103(a) assertions against claims dependent from claim 1 also fail.

Secondly, many of the references have been combined with Aravamudhan et al. when no suggestion or motivation exists to combine these references in the manner suggested in the Office Action. A person of ordinary skill in the art presented with the problem of unified mobility management, as exhibited by Aravamudhan et al., would hardly be disposed on any objective bases to consider references like Kennedy, Buckley et al., Thurlow et al., and Peters et al. Kennedy is concerned with client-server mail handling, Buckley et al. is concerned with an SMTP extension, Thurlow et al. is directed to message handling rules, and Peters et al. is concerned with accessing an indexed file system. None of these references are related to centralizing mobility management. Any attempt to make these combinations fails to consider each of these references as a whole.

1.) Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aravamudhan et al. in view of Kennedy (U.S. Patent No. 6,134,582). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

App. No. 09/785,861
Amendment Dated: February 16, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2004

Kennedy is merely directed to optimizing communication between a client and server by using a database, stored at the client, to maintain a central archive of message-related information. (column 2, lines 43-45) In addition, Kennedy does not have any teaching or suggestion that the message-related information is stored in a format that "is consistent with an underlying storage mechanism" of the client as recited in claim 1. Claim 3 is therefore patentable over Aravamudhan et al. in view of Kennedy for the same reasons that claim 1 is patentable.

Furthermore, even if a combination between Aravamudhan et al. and Kennedy could be made for argument purposes, Kennedy does not provide a teaching or suggestion of a message form as argued in the Office Action. The present invention explains message forms as being "associated with a particular class of communications message" such as an SMS message form. (Specification page 6, lines 4-11) In contrast, Kennedy, as cited in the Office Action, merely discloses data fields that record message information that cannot be equated with a particular class of message. As a result, claim 3 is patentable over Aravamudhan et al. in view of Kennedy.

2.) Claims 8 and 9 are rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aravamudhan et al. in view of Buckley et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,035,327).

Similar to the rejection of claim 3, this 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection depends from the above-stated 35 U.S.C. 102(e) rejection cited against claim 1. As stated above, claim 1 is clearly patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), and therefore, the Office Action's 35 U.S.C. 103(a) assertions against claims dependent from claim 1 also fail. Claims 8 and 9 are therefore patentable over Aravamudhan et al. in view of Buckley et al. for the same reasons that claim 1 is patentable.

3.) Claims 10-17 and 19 are rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aravamudhan et al. in view of Guck (U.S. Patent No. 5,848,415). Applicant respectfully disagrees as described below.

Amended claim 10 recites, "receiving a request to store a property of a message within a data store, the request being a translation of the property into a first format". As explained in the discussion of above with regard to claim 1, Aravamudhan et al. does not teach or suggest two

App. No. 09/785,861
Amendment Dated: February 16, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2004

translations of a message. The addition of Guck in combination with Aravamudhan et al. does not cure this deficiency. Guck teaches away from the present invention by translating a message only when retrieved from the database rather than the two translations of the present invention before it is stored. (see Guck column 11, lines 11-14 and column 12, lines 6-9) Claim 10 is therefore patentable over Aravamudhan et al. in view of Guck.

With regard to claims 11-17 and 19, claims 11-17 and 19 are dependent upon claim 10. Therefore, claims 11-17 and 19 are patentable over Aravamudhan et al. in view of Guck for at least the reasons stated above.

4.) Claim 18 is rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aravamudhan et al. and Guck in view of Thurlow et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,057,841). Applicant respectfully disagrees as described below.

This 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection depends from the above-stated 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection cited against claims 10 and 17. As stated above, claims 10 and 17 are clearly patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), and therefore, the Office Action's 35 U.S.C. 103(a) assertion against claim 18 also fails.

In addition, claim 18 states, "wherein each of the plurality of tables corresponds to a message folder." This means that each table is a message folder. The message folders of the claimed invention correspond to the folders in the sub-folder tables (see FIGURE 3). These message folders are used for storing properties of each message. (see Specification page 8, lines 3-26) There is no discussion of syncing message folders with a plurality of tables to provide a summary view of the messages as suggested in the Office Action. This suggestion for combination of the references has no bearing on the actual use of message folder as provided by the claimed invention. The folders of Thurlow et al. are not related in form or function to the message folders of the present invention. Therefore, claim 18 is patentable over Aravamudhan et al. and Guck in view of Thurlow et al.

App. No. 09/785,861
Amendment Dated: February 16, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2004

5.) Claims 20 and 21 are rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aravamudhan et al. and Guck in view of Peters et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,292,795). Applicant respectfully disagrees as described below.

This 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection depends from the above-stated 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection cited against claim 10. As stated above, claim 10 is clearly patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), and therefore, the Office Action's 35 U.S.C. 103(a) assertions against claims 20 and 21 also fail.

6.) Claims 22, 23, and 25-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Guck, in view of Aravamudhan et al.

As a 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection, the rejection is improper since a 102(b) rejection requires that the invention be patented or described in "a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of the application for patent in the United States". With two references cited against the claims, there is no anticipation.

However, if the rejection was meant to be offered as a 103(a) rejection, it is still overcome. Claim 22 recites similar to claim 10, "receiving a request to store a property of a message within a data store, the request being a translation of the property into a first format". As explained in the discussion of above, Guck in combination with Aravamudhan et al. does not teach or suggest this limitation of the claim. Claim 22 is therefore patentable over Guck in view of Aravamudhan et al.

With regard to claims 23 and 25-30, these claims are dependent upon claim 22. Therefore, claims 23 and 25-30 are patentable over Guck in view of Aravamudhan et al. for at least the reasons stated above.

7.) Claim 24 is rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guck and Aravamudhan et al. in view of Segur (U.S. Patent No 6,212,550).

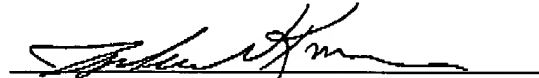
App. No. 09/785,861
Amendment Dated: February 16, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2004

Claim 24 is dependent upon claim 22. As stated above with regard to claim 22, Guck and Aravamudhan et al. do not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations of claim 22. Segur **does** not cure this deficiency. Segur only teaches a single translation of the stored message from a first communication format to second communication format. (Segur column 1, lines 62-65) In addition, Segur teaches away from the limitation that the message is stored in a format that "is consistent with an underlying storage mechanism" of the device since Segur teaches storing the message before translation. (Segur column 1, lines 58-61) Accordingly, for at least these reasons and the reasons stated for claim 22, claim 24 is also patentable over Guck and Aravamudhan et al. in view of Segur.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicant at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.



Joshua W. Korver
Registration No. 51,894
Direct Dial: 206.342.6257

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P. O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
206.342.6200

